

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

Rec'd PCT/PTO 12 NOV 1997

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

08/952474

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/GB 96/01124

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

10 MAY 1996

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

11 MAY 1995

TITLE OF INVENTION

BUILDING COMPONENT

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

SCHOFIELD, Frederick Andrew

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☐ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☐ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☐ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
- * 9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☒ Other items or information:
Transmittal sheets in duplicate w/fees charged to Dep.Acct. 07-2100
Copy of WO/96/35848 based on PCT/GB 96/01124 with 7 sheets drawings
Preliminary Amendment
International Search Report w/13 copies (FR A 2654137, EP A 354084, DP A 356297,
EP A 373019, FR A 1119335, FR A 1140555, FR A 2559187, DE B 116997, FR A 251131,
FR A 2619843, GB A 434730, AT B 395333, FR A 2698394)

Declaration not enclosed at this time, will be filed later.

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☒ The following fees are submitted:

BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):

Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO \$210.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) \$700.00

No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) \$770.00

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$1040.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4) \$96.00

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =

CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY

\$ 930.00

Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).

\$ 130.00

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE
Total claims	- 20 =		X \$22.00
Independent claims	- 3 =		X \$80.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$260.00

\$

\$

\$

TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =

\$

Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).

\$

SUBTOTAL =

\$ 1060.00

Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).

\$

TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =

\$ 1060.00

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property

\$

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =

\$ 1060.00

Amount to be:
refunded

\$

charged

\$

a. ☐ A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.b. ☒ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 07-2100 in the amount of \$ 1060.00 to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-2100. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(n) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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SIGNATURE:

RONALD E. GREIGG

NAME

Reg. No. 31,517

REGISTRATION NUMBER

Date: November 12, 1997

Rec'd PCT/PTO 12 NOV 1997
08/952474

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of
Frederick Andrew Schofield
Based on PCT/GB 96/01124
For: BUILDING COMPONENT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified
application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, after "Building Component" add a new subtitle as
follows: --Summary of the Invention--;

line 21, add a new subtitle as follows:

--Summary of the Invention--.

Page 2, between lines 20 and 21, add a new subtitle as
follows:

--Brief Description of the Drawings--

Page 3, between lines 13 and 14, add a new subtitle as
follows:

--Detailed Description of the Invention--

19. A building component according to claim 18, which includes a batt of insulation material secured to an inner end of the block unit.

20. A building component according to claim 18, wherein an inner end of the capping portion is rebated to accommodate a heat insulation batt such that the capping portion and inner leg portion have, at their inner end said insulation batt to abut or nearly abut the outside of the inner skin of the double-skinned wall.

21. A building component according to claim 18, wherein a marked or recessed panel is provided in the flat top face, and above a flat under face, of the capping portion.

22. A building component according to claim 19, wherein a marked or recessed panel is provided in the flat top face, and above a flat under face, of the capping portion.

23. A building component according to claim 20, wherein a marked or recessed panel is provided in the flat top face, and above a flat under face, of the capping portion.

24. A building component according to claim 18, wherein the under face of the overhang portion serving as a soffit has an outer edge and wherein a drip channel is provided in the under face of the overhang portion adjacent to said outer edge.

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26. A building component according to claim 20, wherein the under face of the overhang portion serving as a soffit has an outer edge and wherein a drip channel is provided in the under face of the overhang portion adjacent to said outer edge.

28. A building component according to claim 19, wherein the capping portion is of equal weight to, or heavier than, the overhang portion to counterbalance or overbalance inwardly the block unit when laid on the outer skin of a double-skinned wall, said overhang portion being hollow, or having multi-cavities therein or being cellular.

29. A building component according to claim 20, wherein the capping portion is of equal weight to, or heavier than, the overhang portion to counterbalance or overbalance inwardly the block unit when laid on the outer skin of a double-skinned wall,

said overhang portion being hollow, or having multi-cavities therein or being cellular.

30. A building component according to claim 18, wherein the block unit made of any durable material.

31. A building component according to claim 30, wherein the durable material is a cementitious material.

32. A building component according to claim 18, wherein the capping portion is of equal weight to, or heavier than, the overhang portion to counterbalance or overbalance inwardly the block unit when laid on the outer skin of the double-skinned wall, and wherein the block unit is cast from two cementitious mixtures, one containing a stone aggregate in respect of the capping portion and the other containing a lightweight aggregate in respect of the overhang portion which is solid.

33. A building component according to claim 30, wherein the block unit is moulded in a manner in which the overhang under face serving as a soffit and/or overhang outer face serving as a fascia/barge board is/are provided with a wood grain or other ornamental effect.

34. A building component according to claim 30, wherein the cementitious material has a mat or fibre reinforcement of synthetic material.

35. A roof of a building having a double-skinned wall provided with a cavity between its inner and outer skins and comprising a building component according to claim 18, wherein the block unit is laid in side-by-side relationship with others of its kind as a course at the top of the wall.

36. A building component having a single-skinned wall, said building component comprising:

a block unit having an intermediate capping portion, an outer overhang portion extending downwardly at right angles to the capping portion and an inner leg portion extending downwardly at right angles to the capping portion,

the overhang portion having an outer face that serves as a barge/fascia board, an under face that serves as a soffit and an inner face,

the capping portion being shaped with a flat top face extending from an inner edge to an outer edge and a flat under face which is parallel to the flat top face and which extends from the inner face of the overhang portion to an oppositely facing outer face of the inner leg portion.

the shape of the capping portion enabling said capping portion to be positioned over, and straddle the wall with the over overhang portion projecting outwardly beyond the wall and the inner face of the overhang portion lying opposite the outside of the wall.

37. A roof of a building having a single-skinned wall and comprising a building component according to claim 36, wherein

the block unit is laid in side-by-side relationship with others of its kind as a course at the top of the wall.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

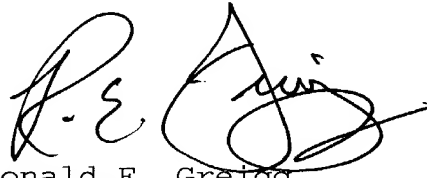
Please substitute the ABSTRACT attached hereto for the abstract as originally filed with the application.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to more clearly set forth and claim the invention.

Consideration and allowance of the claims are courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. E. Greigg', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

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REG/MLC/lh

BUILDING COMPONENT

This invention relates to a building component for use in constructing a roof for a building primarily, but not only, a building constructed having a "double skin" outer wall(s) particularly, but not necessarily, having a cavity between said skins, the cavity normally being filled or substantially so with an insulation material. A requirement of building regulations currently in force is the capping or closing-off of the top of such cavity. This capping operation is normally achieved by fabrication on site using a board of natural or synthetic material in the same, a preceding or a succeeding operation including a gable wall overhang, a barge board and a soffit. While this invention is primarily concerned with the provision of gable wall overhangs, barge boards and soffits, it is also applicable to the provision of front/rear wall overhangs, fascia boards and soffits. Heretofore, overhangs have been constructed of timber as have barge boards and soffits which require regular painting maintenance with both barge boards and soffits being susceptible to rot and decay and requiring periodic replacement. Barge boards and soffits have also been provided of synthetic plastics material. While these are beneficial in requiring little maintenance they tend to degrade when exposed to sunlight, due to ultra violet radiation and thermal stresses. These existing building components are disadvantageous and an object of the present invention is to obviate or mitigate these disadvantages.

Accordingly, the present invention is a building component comprising a block unit having a capping portion and an overhang portion, the outer face of

the overhang portion being to serve as a barge/fascia board. A lower face of the overhang portion beneficially serves as a soffit.

The block unit is desirably for use with others of its kind in being laid side-by-side as a course on top of a wall. Alternatively, a multi-block unit may be provided of desired length for use with others of its kind. The capping portion of the block unit is of tile shape, in a first embodiment, to be positioned over a double-skinned wall and, in a second embodiment, is shaped to be positioned over and straddle the outer skin of the wall. In both embodiments, the overhang portion projects outwardly beyond the wall.

The capping portion is preferably of equal weight to or heavier than the overhang portion to counterbalance or overbalance inwardly the block unit when laid on a wall or the outer skin thereof.

Preferably, the block unit is made of any durable material, for example cementitious material. The overhang portion is beneficially hollow or may have multi-cavities therein, or may be cellular. The block unit may alternatively be cast from two cementitious mixtures, one containing a stone aggregate in respect of the capping portion, and the other containing a light-weight aggregate in respect of the overhang portion which is solid.

Embodiments of the present invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a part of a top and one gable of a building showing a roof support structure with a gable overhang, a barge board and a soffit constructed conventionally;

Fig. 2A is a perspective view of a part of a top and one end of a building showing a roof support structure with a course of block units according to a first embodiment of the present invention; overlying the top of a gable wall;

window frames, guttering or doors. The overhang portion 12 is hollow as shown in Figs. 3A or 3B, 4A or 4B, 5A or 5B, 6A or 6B with a cylindrical tubular formed passage as shown in Fig. 3A or square tubular formed passage as shown in Figs. 3B, 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 6A and 6B. Corner or end block units 18
5 are provided to terminate a course of block units 8, 8' as shown in Figs. 2A and 2B laid on top of the gable wall or front wall 17 in the same manner as conventional bricks or blocks are laid using mortar. An apex 20 may be formed by providing mitre sides to the block units 8, 8' to be abutting at the vertex of the wall. The top surfaces of the block units 8, 8' are flush with the top surfaces
10 of a series of rafters 22 on the gable wall which rafters 22 together provide a roof support structure for a tiled or slated roof including battens and felt/underlay covering.

The outer face of the overhang portions 12 when being moulded may be provided with a wood grain or other ornamental/decorative effect.

15 A gable overhang and barge board when formed in the manner described above is beneficial over the existing provision for such and requires little or no maintenance.

In a first embodiment, the capping portion 10 of the block unit 8 overlies both skins and closes off the cavity between both skins in the gable wall 16.

20 In a second embodiment, the capping portion 10' of the block unit 8' overlies horizontally the outer skin of any outer wall and terminates with a downwardly extending leg portion 9 at right angles thereto, the capping portion 10' straddling the outer skin with leg portion 9 closing off the top of the cavity between the double skins of the wall.

25 Although the invention has been described in connection with pitched gable walls, the building component can equally be used with gable walls 16 of

flat-roofed structures and with front and rear walls 17 of pitched gable or flat-roofed structures.

As shown in Figs. 4A and 4B, the modified block unit of the first embodiment is provided with a drip channel 24 adjacent to the outer edge of soffit 14B, and a marked or recessed panel 26 is provided in the top face of the capping portion 10 as an indicator for the positioning of a restraining element in the form of a wooden batten (not shown) or the like forming part of a roof structure.

As shown in Figs 5A and 5B, 6A and 6B, the block unit and modified block unit of the second embodiment is provided with a drip channel 24 adjacent to the outer edge of soffit 14B, and a marked or recessed panel 26 is provided in the top face of the capping portion 10 as an indicator for the positioning of a restraining element in the form of a wooden batten (not shown) or the like forming part of a roof structure. The panel 26 when in a recessed form can have a secondary use as a collector of any rain or other water which penetrates between the roof structure and block units.

In a modification of the first embodiment, a multi-block unit is provided of a desired length equal to and to locate between a formed apex unit and a corner or end block unit in each gable wall. Such length units may also be used in multiples along front or rear walls between corner or end block units.

In the manufacture of the block units, the cementitious mixtures can have a mat or fibre reinforcement of synthetic material.

In a first modification of both embodiments, the overhang portion is provided with multi-cavities/passages, normally axially parallel to each other, or is of a cellular structure.

In a second modification of both embodiments, the block unit may be cast from two cementitious mixtures, one containing a stone aggregate in

Variations and other modifications can be made without departing from
10 the scope of the invention described above and as claimed hereinafter.

its said outer edge.

6. A building component as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the capping portion (10') is of equal weight to, or heavier than, the overhang portion (12) to counterbalance or overbalance inwardly the block unit (8') when laid on the outer skin of a double skinned wall (17), said overhang portion (12) being hollow, or having multi-cavities therein or being cellular.

7. A building component as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the block unit (8') is made of any durable material.

8. A building component as claimed in claim 7, wherein the durable material is a
10 cementitious material.

9. A building component as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the capping portion (10') is of equal weight to, or heavier than, the overhang portion (12) to counterbalance or overbalance inwardly the block unit (8') when laid on the outer skin of a double skinned wall (17), and wherein the block unit (8') is cast from two cementitious mixtures, one containing a stone aggregate in respect of the capping portion (10') and the other containing a lightweight aggregate in respect of the overhang portion (12) which is solid.

10. A building component as claimed in claim 7 or 8, wherein the block unit (8') is moulded in a manner in which the overhang under face serving as a soffit (14B) and/or overhang outer face serving as a fascia/barge board (14A) is/are provided with a wood grain or other ornamental effect.

11. A building component as claimed in claim 7 to 10, wherein the cementitious material has a mat or fibre reinforcement of synthetic material.

12. A building component for use in constructing a roof of a building having a double-
25 skinned wall provided with a cavity between its inner and outer skins, substantially as

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hereinbefore described with reference to Figs. 5A and 5B of the accompanying drawings.

13. A building component for use in constructing a roof of a building having a double-skinned wall provided with a cavity between its inner and outer skins, substantially as
5 hereinbefore described with reference to Figs. 6A and 6B of the accompanying drawings.

14. A roof of a building having a double-skinned wall (17) provided with a cavity between its inner and outer skins and comprising a building component as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the block unit (8') is laid in side-by-side relationship with
10 others of its kind as a course at the top of the wall (17).

15. A roof of a building having a double-skinned wall provided with a cavity between its inner and outer skins, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Fig. 2A of the accompanying drawings.

16. A roof of a building having a double-skinned wall provided with a cavity between
15 its inner and outer skins, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Fig. 2B of the accompanying drawings.

17. A building component as claimed in Claim 1 when used on a single-skinned wall.

ABSTRACT

A building component comprising a block unit having a capping portion and an overhang portion with the outer face of which serving as a barge/fascia board. A lower face of the overhang portion serves as a soffit. The block unit is for use with others of its kind in being laid side-by-side as a course on top of a gable wall or front/rear wall.

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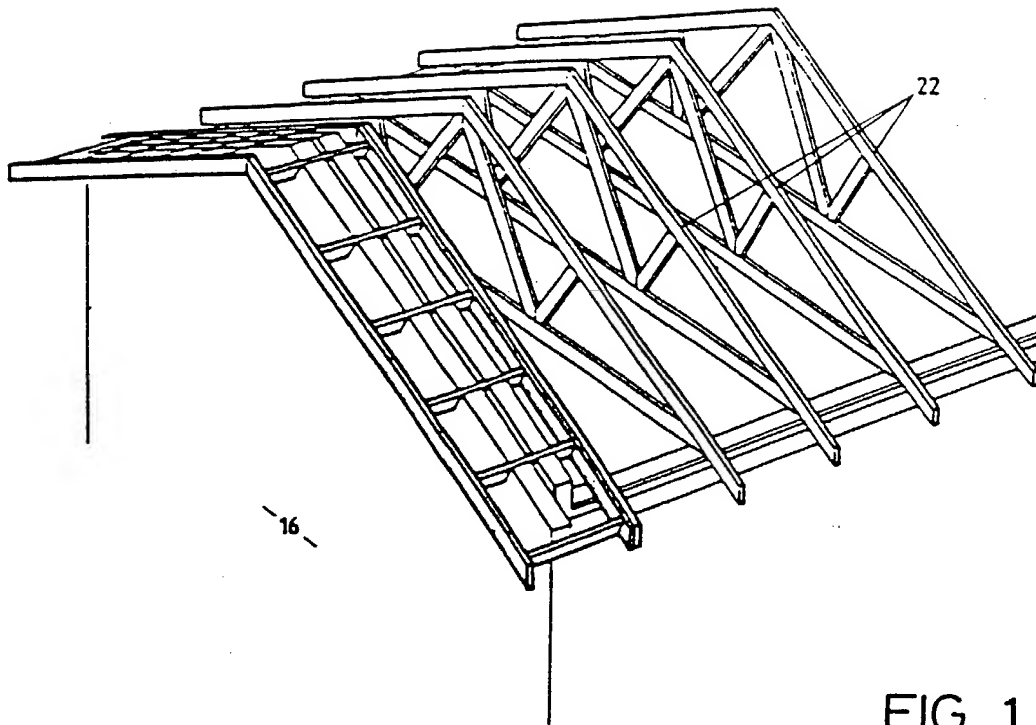


FIG. 1

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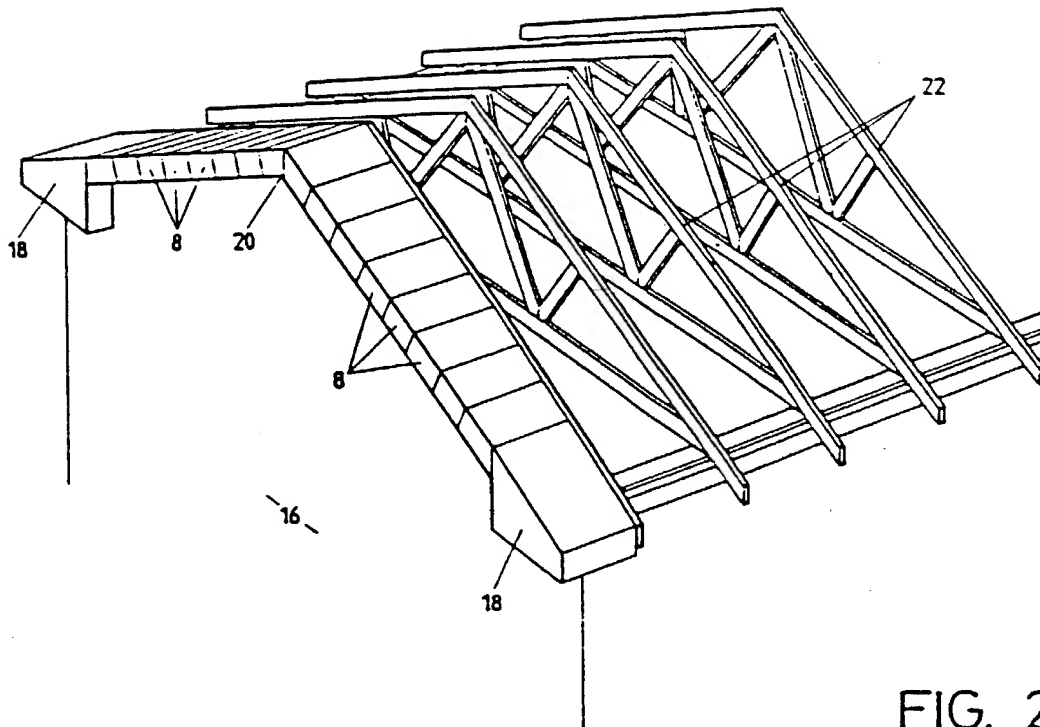


FIG. 2A

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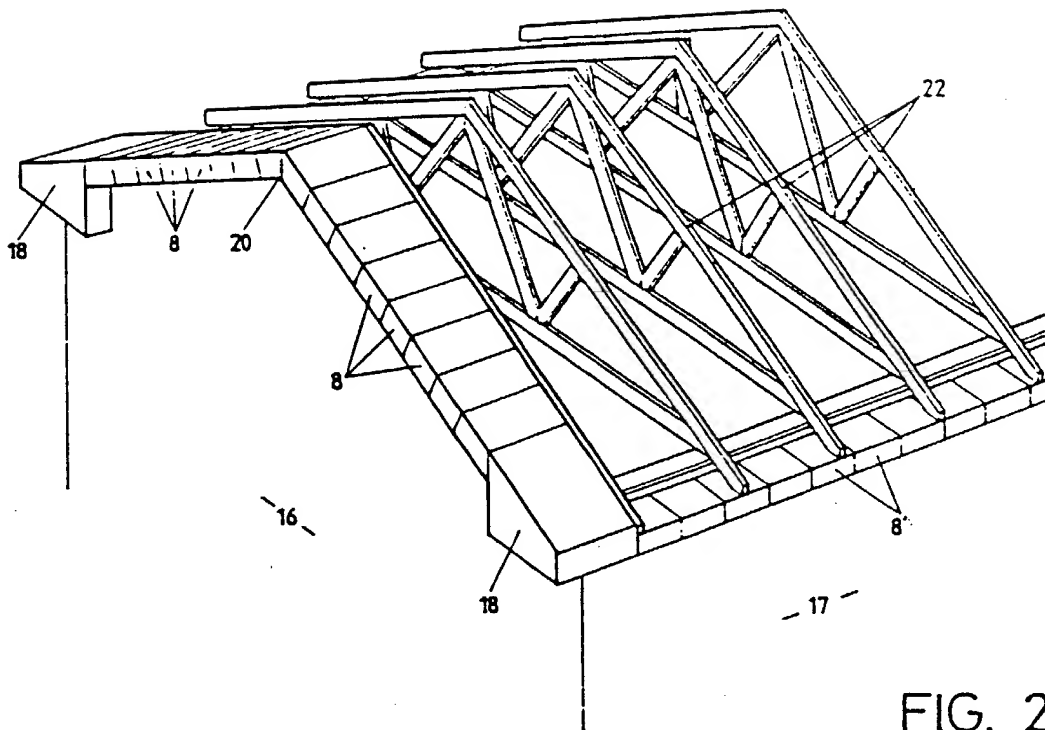
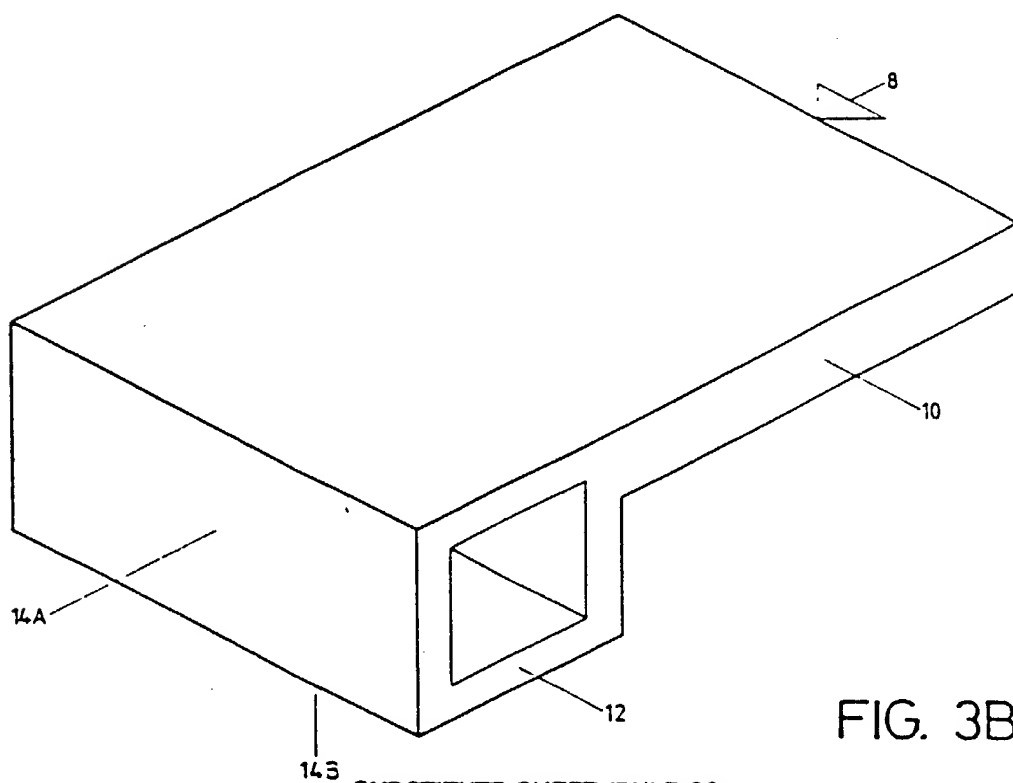
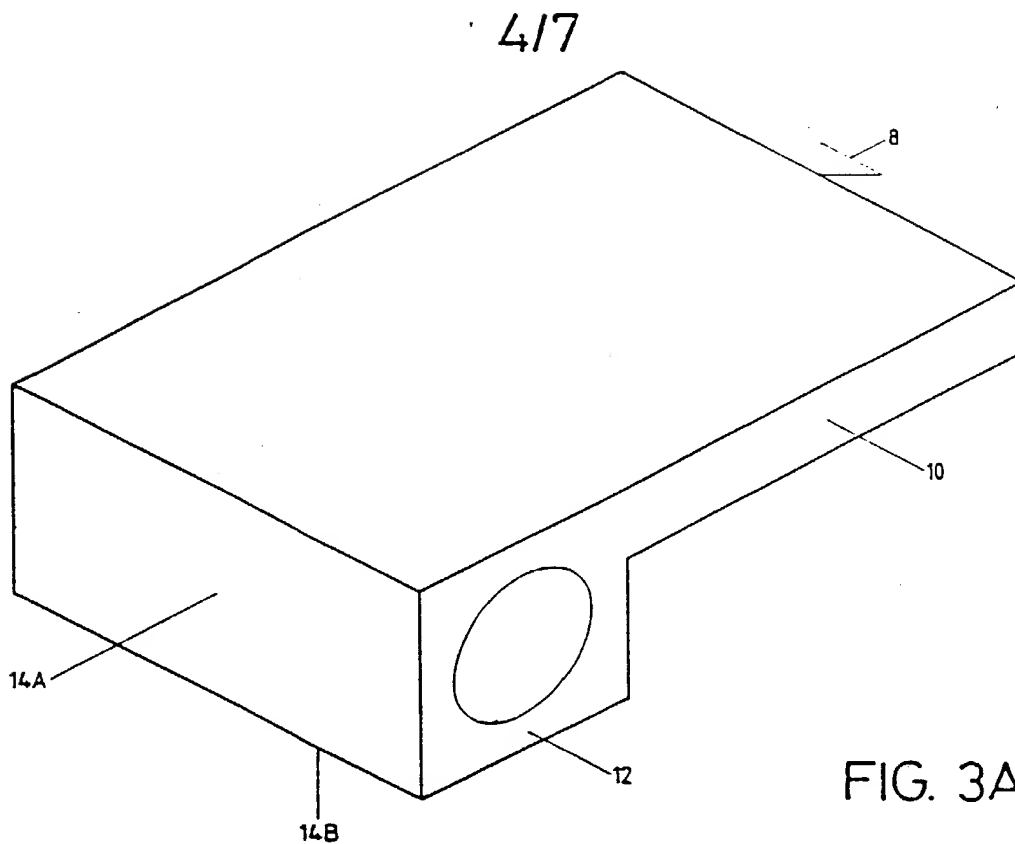


FIG. 2B



WO 96/35848

PCT/GB96/01124

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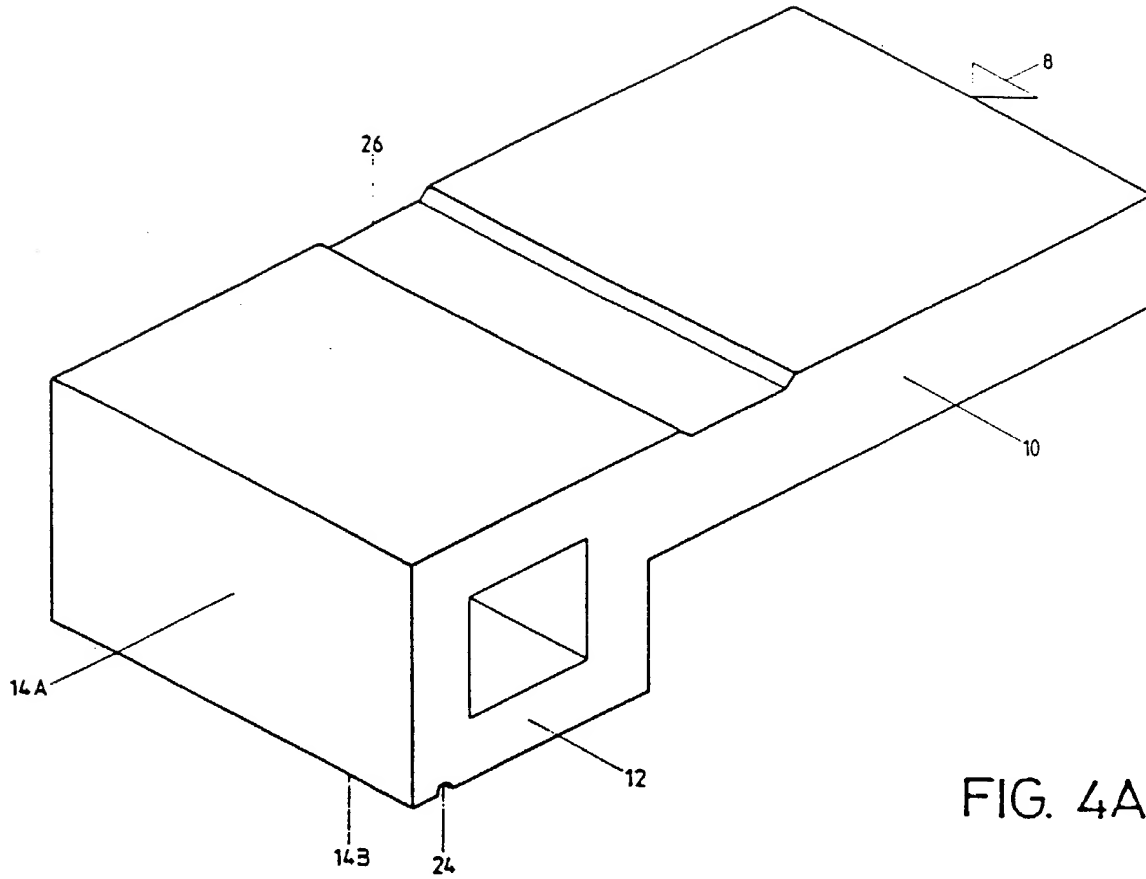


FIG. 4A

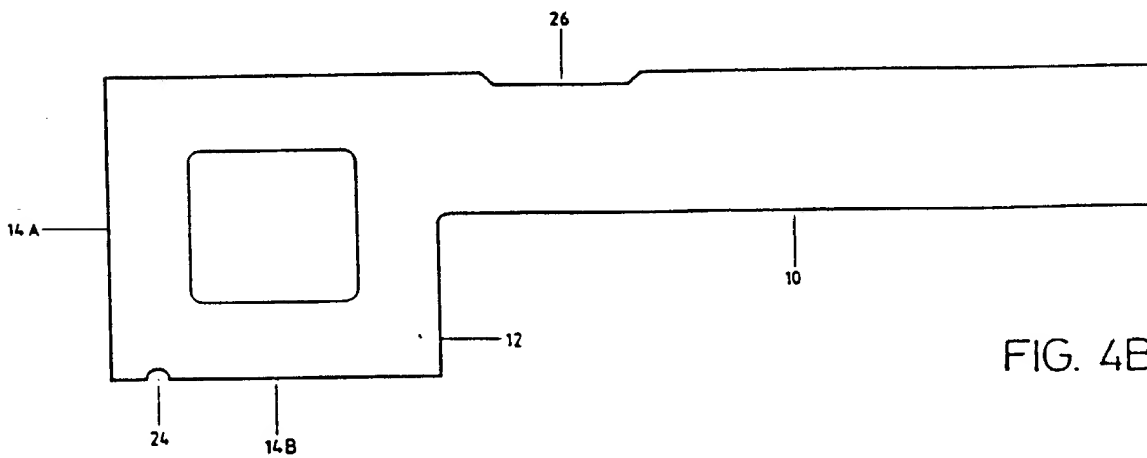


FIG. 4B

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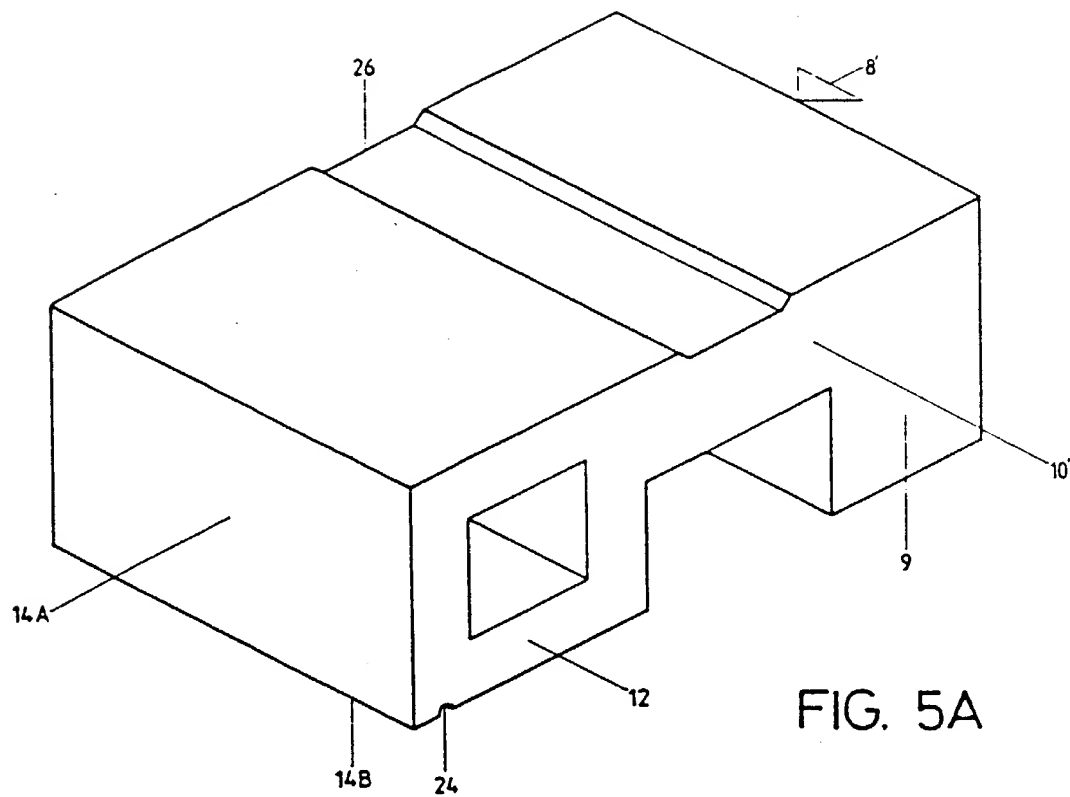


FIG. 5A

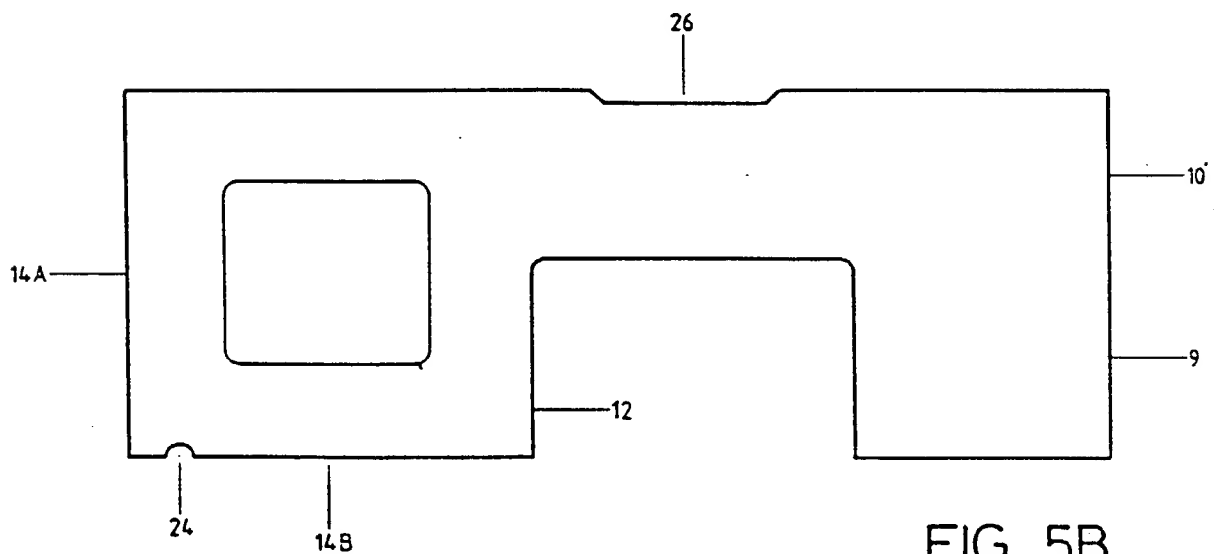
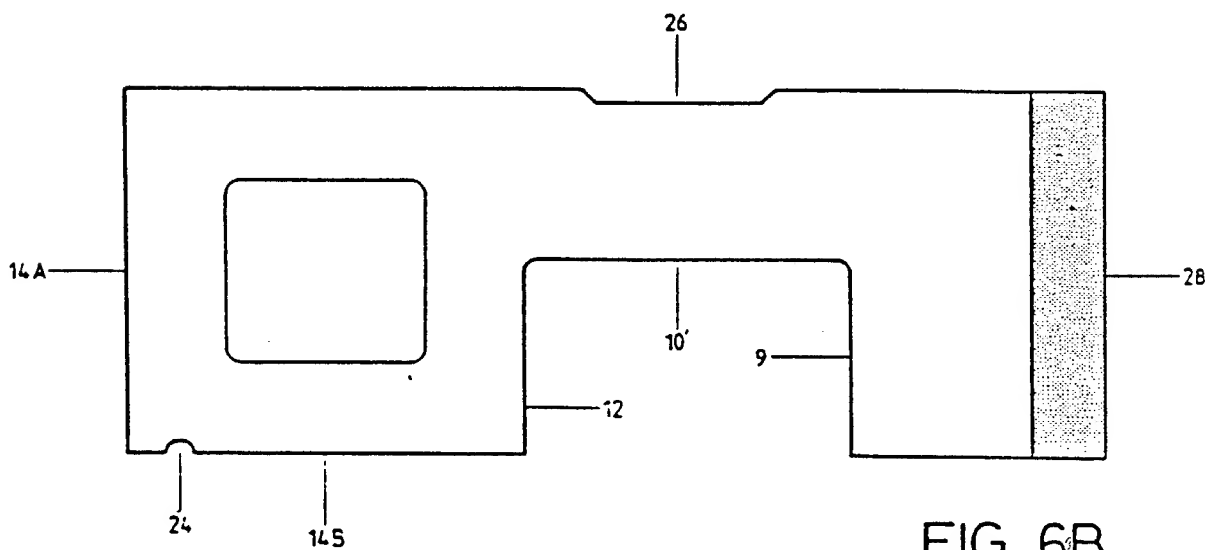
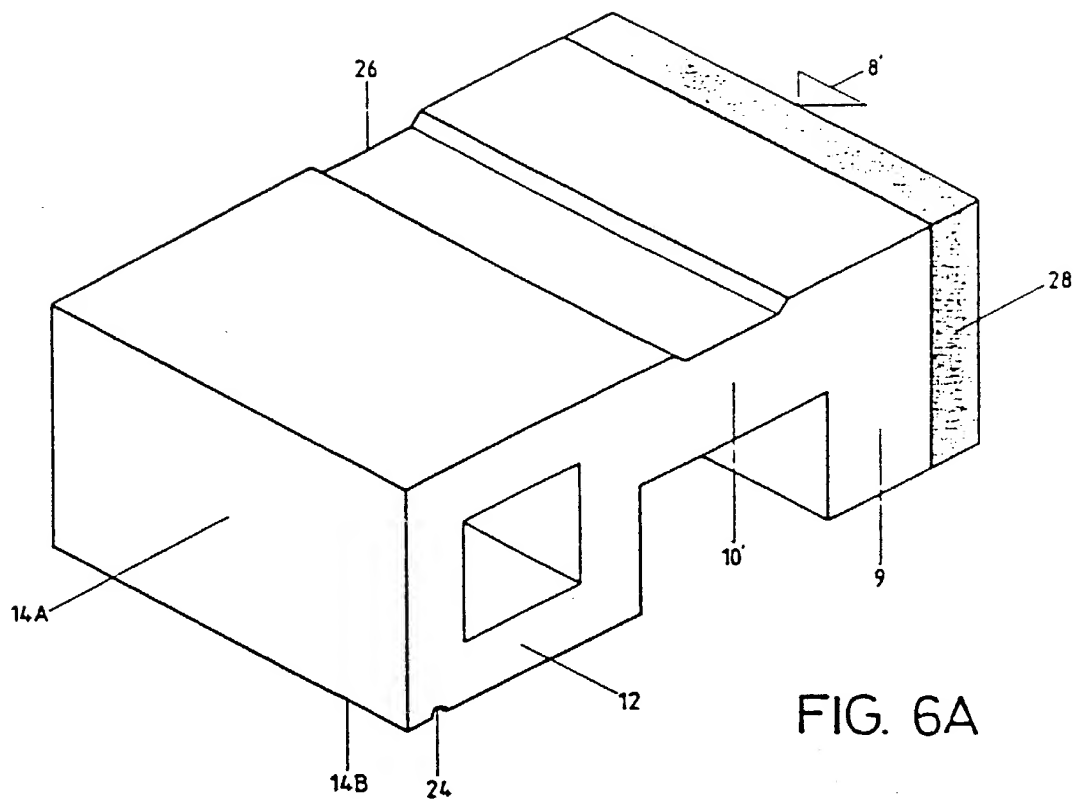


FIG. 5B

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Docket No.

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

English Language Declaration

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

BUILDING COMPONENT

the specification of which

(check one)

☐ is attached hereto.

☒ was filed on 10 MAY 1996 as United States Application No. or PCT International Application Number PCT/GB 96/01124 and was amended on _____

(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority	Claimed
95 09 530.3	Great Britain	11 May 1995		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)		
96 00 197.9	Great Britain	05 January 1996		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)		
				<input type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)		

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U. S. C. Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. Section 112. I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, C. F. R., Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27 (b)) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR			Docket No.
Serial No. 08/952,474	Filing Date	Patent No.	Issue Date
Applicant/ Patentee: FREDERICK ANDREW SCHOFIELD			
Invention: BUILDING COMPONENT			
<p>As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled above and described in:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the specification to be filed herewith.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the application identified above.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the patent identified above.</p> <p>I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).</p> <p>Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No such person, concern or organization exists.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Each such person, concern or organization is listed below.</p> <p>*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities (37 CFR 1.27)</p>			
FULL NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business Concern <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Organization </div>			
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I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF INVENTOR Frederick Andrew SCHOFIELDSIGNATURE OF INVENTOR F.A. SchofieldDATE: 12th February 1999

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SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR _____

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